

STUDIES IN THE LIABEAE (ASTERACEAE). VI.

NOTES ON THE GENUS ERATO

Harold Robinson
Department of Botany
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. 20560.

In a survey of the genera of the Liabeae (Robinson and Brettell, 1974) Erato DC. was treated as a subgenus of Munnozia in spite of a distinctive appearance and one known significant specialization. An effort was made to maintain the generic concepts as broad as possible. During the recent efforts to revise the Liabeae of Ecuador the distinct nature of Erato has become more obvious. The genus exceeds a number of limits that characterize typical Munnozia and the other subgenus, Kastnera. Erato approaches Philoglossa in achene structure and pubescence and seems to relate more closely to that genus.

The most notable features of Erato are the achene and the pubescence. The achene usually has four ribs or sides, occasionally only three. Such achenes seem intermediate in a reduction series between the 6-10 ribs in Munnozia and the 2-sided achenes found in Philoglossa. The pubescence in Erato consists of stiff hairs having short thick basal cells. Tomentum is almost completely lacking, being found only on the tips of the phyllaries in three of the four species. Such pubescence is similar to that in Philoglossa and differs from that in Munnozia.

Additional distinctions are found in Erato. The leaves are totally unique in the 5-11 palmately radiating veins of the blade. The rays in the heads are extremely numerous in many rows, and they exceed the number of disk flowers. The limbs of the rays are essentially glabrous while the limbs in Munnozia usually have glands or hairs extending onto the upper part. The disk corollas have sharp spicules on the tips of the lobes, a condition found in one species of Philoglossa but not in any species of Munnozia. The characteristic pappus of Erato is a series of spreading rather persistent tapering setae in contrast to the less spreading less tapering setae of Munnozia. One species of Erato has a reduced pappus which differs even more from that of Munnozia.

On the basis of the differences cited, Erato is here restored to generic status. The type species, E. polymnioides reverts to its original name while

three others require new combinations. A fifth species from Ecuador, Liabum anatina Benoist, included in the generic survey now seems to be conspecific with the widely distributed E. vulcanica of Colombia, Costa Rica and Venezuela. The four species of Erato are as follows.

Erato polymnioides DC., Prodr. 5: 318. 1836. Synonym: Liabum pallatangense Hieron., Engl. Bot. Jahrb. 29: 60. 1900.

Erato sodiroi (Hieron.) H. Robinson, comb. nov. Liabum sodiroi Hieron., Engl. Bot. Jahrb. 29: 61. 1900.

Erato stenolepis (Blake) H. Robinson, comb. nov. Liabum stenolepis Blake, Journ. Wash. Acad. Sci. 17: 302. 1927.

Erato vulcanica (Klatt) H. Robinson, comb. nov. Liabum vulcanicum Klatt, Engl. Bot. Jahrb. 8: 302. 1927. Synonym: Liabum anatina Benoist, Bull. Soc. Bot. France 84: 633. 1938.

Literature Cited

Robinson, H. and R. D. Brettell 1974. Studies in the Liabeae (Asteraceae). II. Preliminary survey of the genera. Phytologia 28: 43-63.